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Andy King and Claire Etty, *England and Scotland, 1286-1603*, British History in Perspective Series. Basingstoke, Hampshire, Palgrave MacMillan 2016. xx + 236pp. ISBN 9780333693315

Prior to the death of Alexander III, king of Scots, in 1286 England and Scotland had enjoyed a largely peaceful relationship for most of the thirteenth century. The death of Alexander however, set in motion a chain of events that saw this long-established peace shattered. The political and territorial designs of Edward I of England (d.1307) upon Scotland would result in the total destabilisation of Anglo-Scottish relations and nearly three hundred years of Anglo-Scottish hostilities.

This aim of this textbook is to provide a clear and accessible account of the fraught relationship between England and Scotland during a pivotal period of 'British' history. The authors have certainly achieved this objective. The book is divided into two main sections; the first providing an engaging narrative overview of the period following Alexander's death down to the Anglo-Scottish union of 1603. The introduction presents an outline of the main methodological and historiographical issues surrounding the study of Anglo-Scottish relations during this period and is followed by a brief summary of Anglo-Scottish relations prior to 1286. Chapter one details the breakdown in Anglo-Scottish amity following the death of Alexander and Edward's desire to extend dominion over Scotland. By synthesising recent secondary material, the authors not only provide a useful guide for students, they also help condense a much larger topic. The authors' ability to weave through this complex period with clarity is further demonstrated in chapters two and three which deal with the outbreak and course of the Scottish Civil Wars and the Hundred Years War respectively. The authors have again helpfully collated recent scholarship on these large historical topics as well as highlighting the main primary sources associated with these events.

The third chapter, in particular, gives a good account of how the shifting priorities of the English crown allowed the Scots to gradually recapture large areas of southern Scotland (47-9). Success however, was mixed and the over-confidence of David II (d.1371) resulted in both his capture and a major Scottish defeat at Neville's Cross in October 1346. Moreover, maintenance of the French alliance allowed his estranged nephew and heir apparent, Robert Stewart (d.1390), to wreck David's ransom negotiations – a topic dealt with succinctly here. The chapter subsequently charts the course of Anglo-Scottish relations under the Stewart kings and how, thanks to English entanglement in the continental war, they managed to keep the English at bay. Though the account is brief, readers are provided with a list of relevant secondary sources which will, in turn, help encourage further research in this area.

The eventual English defeat in France in 1453 exacerbated political tensions amongst the English nobility and gave rise to the Wars of the Roses. The origins, course and outcome of this conflict in England have attracted an enormous amount of scholarly attention in recent years, let alone how the wars impacted upon Anglo-Scottish relations. The authors nonetheless navigate the historiographical issue by providing a pithy introduction to the outbreak of the war in England before outlining how the competing interests of the Stewarts, Douglasses, Lancastrians, and Yorkists shaped the course of Anglo-Scottish relations down to

end of the fifteenth century. Overall, the narrative is quite detailed (and supplemented with recommended reading) and the actual longevity of the Wars of the Roses is clearly emphasised – an issue that has only to begin to receive the attention it deserves within English historiography.

This theme is continued expertly in chapter five. The dynastic weakness of the Tudor dynasty coupled with the renewal of the ‘Auld’ alliance saw James IV launch an ambitious, yet ultimately catastrophic invasion of England in September 1513. The death of the king and so many leading Scottish peers at Flodden resulted in a fifteen year struggle between pro-English and pro-French factions for control of the infant James V (d.1542). Once again, the authors provide a clear, condensed narrative of what was, in essence, a complex, intricate period of Anglo-Franco-Scottish diplomacy and conflict. Chapter six explores the consequences of a French dominated Scotland from the late 1530s down to 1559. The authors skilfully bring together a variety of primary sources to explain the one of major shifts in ‘British’ history. Using mainly English and Scottish governmental sources, the authors chart the decline of French control in Scotland and the fear of the Catholic Counter-Reformation gave rise to the lords of Scottish Protestant lords of the Congregation and the breaking of the ‘Auld’ alliance.

The desire to secure to Protestant Reformation in Britain forms the central theme of chapter seven. Herein, the authors clearly chart how the prospect of cooperation with the Elizabethan regime created deeper divisions within the ranks of the Scottish nobility. A summary of secondary material coupled with a selection of pertinent primary sources provides a concise, engaging account of the factors leading to the downfall and execution of Mary, queen of Scots. James IV’s relations with Elizabeth I (d.1603) are dealt with in a similar, effective fashion. Furthermore, the authors make clear that relations between both kingdoms remained strained during the last decades of the sixteenth and that fears of the Papal and Spanish Counter-Reformation ultimately created the union of 1603.

The second section of the book deals with more localised aspects of Anglo-Scottish relations and, read in conjunction with the earlier chapters, will be of use to students of military, social, and intellectual history. Chapter eight details the practice of warfare in England and Scotland during this period. As expert military historians the authors offer some very interesting insights into this topic. Terrain, the inability of the Scots to raise or deploy large numbers of archers and the culpability of their commanders were among the reasons why the Scots preferred small to medium scale raiding to large pitched battles. The authors also compare and contrast Scottish and English methods of raising armies and both the logistical and financial difficulties of keeping them in the field for protracted periods of time (141). The growing presence of and role played by foreign mercenaries is also dealt with alongside the development of artillery and sieges within Anglo-Scottish warfare.

Chapter nine subsequently explores the impact of warfare upon the Anglo-Scottish marches – another topic which is beginning to receive greater attention. The authors trace how this region became increasingly militarised over the course of the early fourteenth century and witnessed the rise of the powerful marcher families such as the Dunbars and

Douglasses in Scotland and the Percies, and Nevilles in Northern England. The porous nature of the Anglo-Scottish border gave rise to cross-border trade, migration, crime, and raiding, each of which is touched upon in this chapter. Overall, this will be an immensely useful guide for students wishing the study the development of the border nobility.

Chapter ten examines some of the interaction between the inhabitants of England and Scotland during the period in question and will be of interest to scholars working in the area social history. Though both kingdoms were nominally at war from 1296 well into the late sixteenth century, truces and periods of peace gave enabled trade and the movement of coin and goods. Educational links were also developed in this period. Prior to the founding of St. Andrews in 1413, many Scots attended Cambridge or Oxford. The labour shortage created by the Black Death also saw many Scots find employment in England (175). Indeed, Scots often travelled to Canterbury on Pilgrimage while numbers of English pilgrims sought out St. Andrews. Attitudes towards religion however, changed sharply with the advent of the Reformation and for a time Scotland became a refuge for English Catholics (178). The final chapter discusses respective English and Scottish national identities set against the backdrop of Anglo-Scottish relations. Though the idea of Scottish nation was well established by the late thirteenth century, war with England served to further ingrain a sense of Scottish-ness (184-5). Conversely, English monarchs often drew upon older historical sources (such as Geoffrey of Monmouth) to challenge this idea of Scottish sovereignty.

Overall this book is well written and very accessible, containing two maps of southern Scotland, two family trees outlining the English and Scottish royal successions and a glossary of specialist terms. The synthesis of secondary material and guide to further reading will be particularly useful for students embarking on the study of Late Medieval/Early Modern Anglo-Scottish relations. The clear, narrative approach however, is by far the book's main strength. Broadly speaking, textbooks dealing with this period have tended to impose chronological frameworks upon this era. For example scholars come to regard the Scottish defeat at the Battle of Flodden as the watershed dividing Late Medieval England and Scotland (c.1280-1513) from the beginning of Early Modern Britain 1513-1603. This book nonetheless, bridges both periods and will be an immensely useful resource for students studying various aspects of English and Scottish history.

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